

FORM NO. 241
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(47)

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

LOGGED

Foreign Language
Training CommitteeFLTC-83-011
20 April 1983

Cmt 25

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

FROM:

Chairman

SUBJECT:

Machine or Machine-Assisted Translation of

20 APR 1983

1. The DCI Guidance for the Formulation of the FY 1985-1989 National Foreign Intelligence Program directs the program managers "for the CIAP and the GDIP" to "submit coordinated program initiatives designed to improve the Community's capability to produce timely and adequate translations of [redacted] and other intelligence bearing material through the development and utilization of machine translation or machine-assisted translation technology." The guidance also directs the CCP to accompany its 1985 budget submission with a report on the applicability of this technology to NSA's requirements. [redacted]

2. Several elements of the Community have been involved for years in evaluating various systems of machine and machine-assisted translations and the Air Force's Foreign Technology Division (among other Government entities) have used machine translations for several years to great advantage. The Technology Subcommittee of the DCI's Foreign Language Training Committee (FLTC) is presently engaged in reviewing all currently known systems for machine and machine-assisted translations to determine their present and potential value to members of the Intelligence Community. A special meeting of the Subcommittee is being convened at to discuss machine and machine-assisted translations. In addition to members of the Subcommittee (representing NSA, CIA, FTD, DLI, FSI, and Brigham Young University) representatives of CIA/ORD and FBIS, the DCI's Information Handling and HUMINT Committees and the IC Staff's Planning and Policy and Program and Budget Staffs have also been invited to attend. [redacted]

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SUBJECT: Machine or Machine-Assisted Translation of Japanese S&T Documents

3. Even though budget submissions for FY 85 are not due in the IC Staff until September 1983, preparations must begin shortly for the studies which the DCI has requested of the GDIP, CIAP, and CCP. I would hope that at the May meeting we could determine who would have primary responsibility for drafting these studies and effect a mechanism to ensure that the views of all elements of the Community concerned would be adequately represented by the drafters. I shall advise you of the time and place of this meeting. [redacted] 25X1

4. As background, I am attaching copies of two memoranda on this subject from [redacted] Director, Planning and Policy Staff, ICS, to the DDCI who referred them to CIA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) for consideration. It is doubtful that, owing to budgetary constraints and competing priorities, funding for this project will be programmed by ORD/FBIS. FBIS has just arranged with the Department of State and the Army to place a GS-13 supervisor and a part-time secretary under [redacted] to supervise some 16 part-time indigenous translators of [redacted]; this effort, however, will do nothing to cope with the enormous backlog referred to in [redacted] memo. The reports which the DCI has requested from the GDIP, CIAP, and CCP should, of course, indicate the resources in money and manpower which would be required to implement any recommendations for machine or machine-assisted translations of these [redacted] 25X1
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Attachments:

1. DCI/ICS 83-4253
2. DCI/ICS 83-4303

SECRET

SUBJECT: Machine or Machine-Assisted Translation ()

25X1

Distribution: (FLTC-83-011)

- 1 - Each Member FLTC
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- ✓ 1 - ICS Registry

25X1

ES/FLTC () (20 Apr 83)

25X1

DCI/ICS 82-4253
4 August 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: [redacted]
Director, Intelligence Community Staff

FROM: [redacted]
Director, Office of Planning

SUBJECT: Machine Assisted Translation - Japanese to English

JZ
6 AUG 1982

1. There is a growing backlog of untranslated [redacted]
[redacted] FBIS has recognized the problem for some time and is in the process of expanding the number of staff and contract positions devoted to the problem. They have, however, had considerable difficulty in recruiting [redacted] with the required technical qualifications. Based upon a review of current on-going and related activities, we believe a machine assisted translation procedure would serve to reduce the current backlog and aid in maintaining the required throughput. We should note however, that the final product will be "analyst quality" translations and will not produce the "general reader" quality required for wide-scale distribution.

2. We are in the process of preparing a production enhancement proposal (draft attached) to develop a machine-assisted Japanese-to-English translation capability. We have had discussions with [redacted] from the DDS&Ts' Office of Research and Development (ORD) (who will develop the procedure) and [redacted] and staff in the FBIS's Production Division (who will be the ultimate user of the system). We are currently in the coordination and cost development phase of the proposal, and expect to submit it as an FY 1984 enhancement request. We estimate a 19-24 month/\$2M project managed by ORD to develop an operational capability.

Attachment:
Production Enhancement Proposal [redacted] language
Machine Assisted Translation)

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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C 20505

Critical Intelligence Problems Committee

DCI/ICS 82-4303
29 November 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: [] Chairman

SUBJECT: [] Machine Assisted Translation

1. As you know, the CIPC has been working closely with the Office of Research and Development and the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, DDS&T, to investigate the feasibility of developing a [] machine assisted translation capability. This effort was prompted by a large backlog []

which would require an unacceptably large number of cleared translators to process using current methods. As a result of preliminary investigations, ORD is confident that such a system could be delivered to FBIS in one and a half to two years at a cost of from \$1.5 to 2.0 million. Additional funds would be necessary to reduce the delivery time much below two years; however, a quick trade-off analysis does not appear to favor acceleration. []

2. In an effort to secure the necessary funding for this two-year project, we recently submitted a Production Enhancement Initiative, but unfortunately it was submitted too late to be considered this year. The DDS&T is enthusiastic about undertaking this project if funds were to be made available. We believe that the program is of a sufficiently high priority, as are its chances of success, that every effort should be made to get it under way as quickly as possible. Approximately \$1.0 million in FY 83 funds would be required with the remainder coming in FY 84. []

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